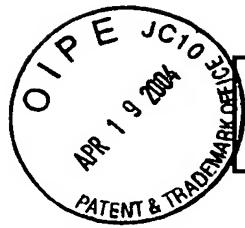


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CASE 4-31158A



FILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

EV 365601740 US
Express Mail Label Number

April 19, 2004
Date of Deposit

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF

SHAH ET AL.

Art Unit: 1615

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/EP 00/09455

Examiner: R.M. Joynes

FILED: 27 SEPTEMBER 2000

U.S. APPLICATION NO: 10/089,265

35 USC §371 DATE: 27 MARCH 2002

FOR: ORAL CONTROLLED RELEASE FORMULATIONS

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated November 18, 2003, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 3 of this paper.